



BANES Networks. Community Interest Company



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Your Say



B&NES Council have commissioned Your Say Advocacy since 2006 to support and facilitate the 'Networks' for People with Learning Disabilities across the B&NES area.



Historically this has meant 3 different 'Network' groups meeting in the 3 main geographical areas of B&NES:- Bath, Keynsham and Norton Radstock.



The Network have worked on local and B&NES wide issues affecting the lives of people with learning disabilities and worked to make change happen to improve peoples lives.

The Networks have worked on projects including :-



Hate Crime



Employment



Education



Transport



Friendships and Relationships



Health and Healthy Lifestyles



Carers and short breaks



Personal Budgets



Changing Places



Housing



Keynsham Regeneration



Challenging Behaviour



Elections

As well as, Special Projects at the request of the Council or CCG



And we have worked with:-

The Police



Council Officers and Councillors



The Healthy Sports and Lifestyles team



GP's and Health professionals



Employers



Faith Groups



Local businesses



Community Groups

We have made 4 information DVD's for people with learning disabilities, on:-



Housing - 'No Place Like Home'

Employment - 'Making it Work'

Annual Health Checks - 'Check it Out'

Fitness and Exercise - 'Working it Out'



The 'Networks' are open to anyone with a learning disability as well as their family members and others who wish to support the Network activities.



Different people have different reasons for being part of the Networks - for some people it is a real chance to have a voice and make change happen and for others it has offered a more social opportunity.



These difference have meant that people have wanted different things from the Network and so in 2012 the Networks began to really change and we formed a 'Project Group' of members who wanted to be more active in the running of the Network and in making real change happen in B&NES.



In 2012 the Project Group formed their own Community Interest Company called BANES Networks CIC and the Project group members all became co-directors of this new company along with Kirstie and Jude from Your Say.



BANES Networks CIC is really proud of what it has achieved in quite a short period of time and we would like to share this with you today.



The CIC members are all working hard to learn how to run a Community Interest Company - this means we have to learn about money and accounts and understand more about budgets and working as a team.



Eventually we hope that we will be able to be commissioned directly by the Council to give people with learning disabilities their voice in B&NES, rather than working through Your Say - but we still have some time to go before we are ready for this.

Just some of our work.....we want to share

with you just a few of the things we are most proud of:-



One Stop Shop - for many years the Keynsham Network was really involved in the regeneration of Keynsham, including being one of the partners consulted on the designs for the new development in Temple Street, including the Once Stop Shop and Council Offices. The Network asked that the development include a fully accessible Changing Place Toilet and we were really pleased when this was agreed and included in the design.

We have carried on being involved in the new development and last year we were invited to become Partners in the Once Stop Shop.



This was really exciting and created a real work opportunity for us, offering advice, support and help to other people with learning disabilities using the One Stop Shop in Keynsham.

It has taken a bit of juggling of the Your Say budgets but we have found a way to make sure that once a week for $\frac{1}{2}$ a day, a Your Say Advocate and a CIC member are available at the One Stop Shop.



It is still early days and we are going to move our time slot from the morning to the afternoon to make ourselves more available to people who may be busy in the mornings - but we really think that this is a really positive step and shows what people with learning disabilities can offer.



Quality Checking - in 2012 part of the new contact with Your Say was to develop a Quality Checking service - where people with learning disabilities use their own experiences, skills and knowledge to monitor and review the services delivered to their peers.



We call this being an 'Expert by Experience'.

Over the last 2 years we have completed 10 Quality Checks of residential and supported living services for people with learning disabilities across B&NES.



The Quality Checking team are all employees of Your Say Advocacy and the role of Quality Checking is one we take very seriously. There are 5 members of the Quality Checking Team.



We have seen some really good services as well as some services that have made us worry - and we share what we have found out with the Council and the service themselves which some suggestions about things they could do differently or better.



Bath Bistro - this is an Employment project we set up to help us to build skills as well as earn a little money.



Our Bistro runs on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and provided a 3 course meal - with 3 choices for each course - prepared by ourselves and then served by us to paying customers.

The Bistro gives 12 people each month the chance to experience real skills building in a catering kitchen and in a restaurant setting.



We usually have about 40 customers and in January 2014 we made an arrangement that each month we would also feed the guests of Julian House.

One of the great things about Bistro is that anyone can come along and so we have lots of customers who have learning disabilities, who might find other restaurants quite difficult to visit, as well as lots of people without disabilities who keep coming back because they enjoy the food.

We are really proud of Bistro - we have to work really hard but it is worth it. 2 of us have chosen to go on and do Catering Course at College and one person has left as they are now in full time employment.



In 2014 we worked with B&NES Council to secure 2 Allotment plots and we have a small group who work weekly at the Allotment - where we plan to grow as much fruit and vegetables as possible for the Bistro and other food projects.



Training - as 'Experts by Experience' we also use our skills and knowledge to help others to think about the experiences and realities of having a learning disability.



The CIC offers a number of free training opportunities each year to service providers, service users, community groups and others on a range of different subjects, which include:-



Understanding the History of Learning Disabilities

Challenging Behaviour and what this means

Safeguarding - from our perspective

Hate Crime awareness and reporting

Mental Capacity Act

Equality



In 2014 we also did a lot of work with Freeways to help train staff and service users on how to make their user representation better and give people with learning disability a bigger voice in the organisation.



Partnership Conversation – one of our challenges from 2012, when Your Say's contract was renewed, was to try to re-start the Partnership Board in B&NES.



Our old Partnership Board had stopped for lots of different reasons, but mainly because it was hard to work out what its job was and who was needed to make change happen.



We spent a long time trying to think of new ways to make a Partnership Board work and in 2013 we had the idea of having a 'Partnership Conversation'.

The idea was that if we could get a group of people together to talk about and have a 'conversation' about a subject that was really important to people with learning disabilities then we might be able to make change happen.

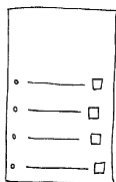


We spent quite a long time thinking about who we needed to invite to become our Partners in these Conversations - and in July 2014 we had our first 'Partnership Conversation'.



Partnership Conversation - we invited the following partners to join us:-

Mike MacCallam
 Cllr Simon Allen
 Sergeant Geoff Cannon - Avon and Somerset Police
 Luke Joy Smith - Dimensions
 Bev Craney - Swallow
 Debbie Patten - Sirona
 Lydia Clark - Carers Centre
 Dr Ian Orpen - CCG
 Dave Twine - Manvers Street Baptist Church
 Chris East - Employment Services
 Natalie Candy - Active Sport and Lifestyles Team



Not everyone has made it to a Conversation yet and we are still talking about and thinking about the membership as we know that without Partners then there will be no Conversation or actions.



We have now held 3 'Partnership Conversations' and we have so far explored the issues of 'Keeping Safe at home and out and about' as well as supporting people with learning disabilities to have 'Healthier Lifestyles'



We have a whole list of other issues we want to explore and we want to use the 'Partnership Conversation' as a way to feed into the Health and Wellbeing Board - the Council and CCG.

Our other Conversation topics include:-



- How people with learning disabilities get their support and how much choice they have in this
- Having the lives we want - not those others choose for us
- Decision making and what happens when no one listens to our voice
- Work - access to real work opportunities and how we can influence this
- Protecting our rights
- Money - especially Personal Budgets and how in control we really are of our own budgets.



How can 'Health and Wellbeing Board' help us....



We would like the Health and Wellbeing Board to recognise that the BANES Networks CIC and the Network members are an essential link to finding out what is really important in the lives of people with learning disabilities.



With a data base of over 500 people with learning disabilities as well as regular meetings and opportunities we can help you to find out about what works and what needs to change to improve the lives of, and quality of services to, people with learning disabilities across B&NES.



We hope the 'Partnership Conversation' is one way we can share information directly with the Health and Wellbeing Board - but we would also like to invite you to work with us by using us as a group that you can consult with and ask questions about learning disability issues.

Any Questions?

